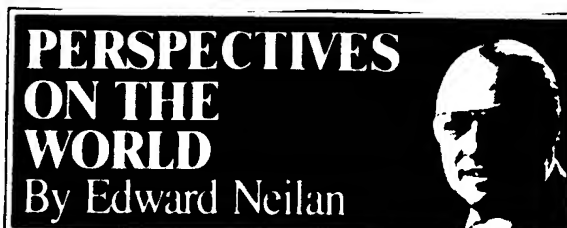


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WASHINGTON TIMES
25 September 1985



State eyes 'retread' for high-level post

If foreign news analysts wrote gossip columns:

State Department insiders are talking about the swift re-entry there of James Lilley, whose title is deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs. Mr. Lilley has held Foreign Service assignments as well as a stint with the Central Intelligence Agency and a tour in Peking, plus service on the National Security Council staff.

He became chief representative of the American Institute in Taipei,

which is the name of the U.S. diplomatic charade operation in Taiwan, and then sampled business life briefly as China trade consultant to the Otis Elevator Co. Back in Foggy Bottom only a few months, he is believed to have the inside track to succeed Paul D. Wolfowitz, current assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs, when Mr. Wolfowitz takes up his new post as ambassador to Indonesia.

The elevation of Mr. Lilley would continue Secretary of State George Shultz's drive to replace political appointees with experienced career professionals in key posts at State.
